THE

Behaviour, Confeſsion, & Execution

OF

The ſeveral Priſoners that ſuffered at

TYBURN

On *Fryday* the ninth of *May*, 1679.

VIZ.

George Rawlins, } For Robbery on the Highway.

Thomas Benfield,-- For Burglary.

Sarah Dent, ----- For Murther.

Together with

THO. PICKERING,

Drawn, Hang'd, and Quarter'd for High-Treaſon.

GIVING

A true Account of their Deportment after Condemnation, penitent Expreſſions, and laſt Words.

Publiſhed for a Warning to others.

Having peruſed this Narrative, and conceiving the ſame may be very full to Admoniſh other Ill Livers, I do Atteſt that the matters therein contained are truly Related. Sam. Smith *Ordinary.*

LICENSED, 1679,

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The Confeſſion and Execution

of the Priſoners at *Tyburn*, &c.

AT the Seſſion holden for *London* and *Middleſex*, ending *May* the 2d 1679. there were in all Fifteen that received Sentence of Death. An Account of their reſpective Tryals hath already been divulg'd, to which we refer the Reader: Our Work at preſent being to acquaint you with their deportment after Condemnation, as far as is remarkable, or may ſerve to caution others to avoid the evil Courſes that brought them to this untimely Deſtruction; which is the main End for which this Paper is Publiſhed.

Several of the before-mentioned unhappy and Condemned Perſons obtained his Majeſties gracious Reprieve; which as it was mercifully extended, that by Reformation they

may avoid deſtruction; ſo 'tis hoped that in Gratitude it will work in them ſuch a real and deep ſenſe of their former ill-ſpent Lives, and horrid Crimes, as by the Operation of Divine Grace on their Conſciences, it may ſerve to reclaim them from thoſe pernicious extravagant courſes, and put them on the ſtudy of redeeming their time by Repentance and good Actions for the future: For he or ſhe whom neither the terrors of Death, nor indulgence of Pardon can Reclaim, deſerves (if afterwards they offend) neither Mercy nor Pity.

However, ſince that gracious favour (no leſs to be expected than immerited) was kept ſtrictly private from their notice, it will not be unfit to give ſome Account in general of their Behaviour under thoſe fatal Circumſtances.

But firſt we muſt take notice of *Thomas Pickering*, who being above a quarter of a year ago found guilty of High-Treaſon, and Condemned with Father *Ireland* and *Grove*, formerly Executed, for deſigning and endeavouring to Murther his Sacred Majeſty, was this day drawn on a Sledge (but not till about an hour after the reſt) and with a numerous Guard conveyed to *Tyburn*, and there Hang'd and Quarter'd. He was bred up a Taylor, ſometimes pretended to be a Merchant, but in truth fell in with the Jeſuits, and was admitted a Lay-brother amongſt them. The horrid Crime he was executed for was, That he deſigned to Kill the King, and was to have Thirty thouſand Maſſes ſaid for his Soul, if he happen'd to be cut off in, or Condemned for the ſame. He did once attempt to ſhoot his Majeſty, but Heaven (the beſt Life-guard of Kings) ordered his flint to fall out juſt in that moment, and yet his Popiſh Superiours were ſo impudent, as to make him do pennance, and whipt him ſeverely for his negligence, and looſing opportunity.

Mr. *Ordinary* on the Evening before his Execution, told him, he was come to offer his Service to fit him for his approaching Death; that it was now no time to deal ſleightly with him, but that he would beg great Repentance of God for his abominable

nable Crimes. The particular Arguments he uſed, are too tedious here to be related; the Priſoner thankt him for his good Councel, but would not permit him to pray with him, but deſired him to pray at home for him. At place of Execution, according to the uſual manner of thoſe Men, he would not acknowledge any thing of his Crimes, but repeated the Lords Prayer and Apoſtles Creed, and ſo in an obſtinate manner perſiſted, till Executed according to Sentence.

One of them (though not pleaſed to own the particular Fact) was yet obſerved to be very penitent, acknowledging, that for his diſobedience to the pious Admonitions of his Parents, and extravagant life, eſpecially for theſe two years laſt paſt, *viz.* in Swearing, Drunkenneſs, and keeping Debaucht Company, God had moſt juſtly brought him to this terrible Sentence of Death, for a Crime of Burglary, which he was involved in (as he affirm'd) by the Extravagancies and Incitements of others; and therefore declared it as a neceſſary caution to all young Men, to take eſpecial Care whom they make their Conſorts, or contract a familiarity with.

Noſcitur ex ſocio, qui non cognoſcitur ex ſe.

He was obſerv'd, during his Impriſonment, conſtantly to attend the Publick Worſhip of God in the Chappel, and gave himſelf very much to the reading of Books of Devotion; in which Practice there is good ground to judge him very ſincere, for that the *Ordinary* coming many times near his Chamber-door, unknown to him, hath heard him pray very fervently, that God would fit him for his Tryal, and ſanctifie his Diſtreſſes unto him.

Another did acknowledge he had been brought up with a Religious Education, but being obſtinate and undutiful to his Parents, which he now much lamented, as a Provocation given to God to deſert him to Highway-Robbery,

Robbery; which he confeſt he had practis'd for ſome years, yet affirm'd he never uſed violence to any perſons life: and affirm'd, that once having robb'd a perſon of 20*s.* coming to Market, whom he had reaſon to believe to be a poor man, he was ſo ſmitten in Conſcience, that he could not reſt till he had inquired him out, and for reſtitution ſent him 40 *s.* And being demanded why he return'd 40 *s.* for 20 *s.* taken away, he ſaid, He did it out of Conſideration, for that he ſuppoſed the poor man by his robbing him, might looſe 20 *s.* which he might otherwiſe have gain'd by his Market. Which ſhews that generally, even in the moſt proffigate perſons, God leaves his witneſs in their Conſciences to check them for ill deeds, and that there is a certain innate Principle of Vertue, and Ray of good Nature, which the moſt Debaucht cannot, without extream difficulty, totally extinguiſh.

But as to the Perſons that now ſuffer'd, the firſt we ſhall mention is *George Rawlins*, for a Robbery on the Highway near *Kenſington*. He had been bred a Souldier both here and beyond the Seas, and appeared as a perſon ſtout and bold. Mr. Ordinary, to bring him to Contrition and Repentance, thought fit, in reſpect of his Pro-

Profeſſion, to uſe this Argument : That *David*, though a mighty man of War, yet humbled himſelf and wept for ſin, counting it no diſhonourable imputation of Effeminacy. To which he excellently replied, and above what could be expected from his Education, That Souldiers indeed ought to be men of Courage; but, alas, ſaid he, there is no Valour againſt God : for to him we muſt all bow in an humble Confeſſion : And therefore he was not at all aſham'd to weep for ſin, for he felt the Anguiſh of it, but hoped that his Repentance was *Heart-deep*, as well as his Eyes moiſtened with Tears; counting that no Faint-heartedneſs at the approach of Death; but rather deſired to ſhew himſelf a man in Chriſt, than one that, pretending to imitate a Roman Courage, outfaces Death with a ſtupid ignorance of a future Judgment.

Another ſtood Condemn'd for a Burglary, and ſtealing 415 *l.* He confeſs'd that he ſerved five years an Apprentiſhip to a Poulterer; but being corrected for Miſcarriages, deſerted his Maſter, and afterwards addicted himſelf to bad Company : amongſt whom he learnt to prophane the Sabbath, Drink to exceſs, Swear, *&c.* So that he ſoon became a grand Proficient in wickedneſs. He expreſs'd good degrees of Remorſe for all his ſins, and particularly for his unjuſt folly in leaving his Maſter and lawful Employment : Upon which he was inticed, for a ſmall Reward, to aſſiſt the principal Burglarian (who is fled from Juſtice) in carrying part of the Money as far as *Deal*; where being diſmiſs'd, on his return to Town he was apprehended, and now Convicted but obtain'd a Reprieve.

Thomas Benfield Suffer'd for a Burglary, which he inge-

ingeniouſly Confeſs'd, and much lamented; as alſo thoſe leading ſins, Sabbath-Profanation, Swearing, Debaucht Company, *&c.* all which he expreſs'd himſelf heartily ſorry for.

Sarah Dent was Executed for Murthering of her Baſtard-Child, which ſhe acknowledged; and that the perſon that begot it was her Fellow-Servant; who being ſince dead, ſhe partly out of Diſtruſt of Providence, as not knowing how to maintain it, and partly to cover her Shame, added Murther to Uncleanneſs, and made away with it. She much bewailed that in her youth ſhe had neglected to learn to read; whereby from God's Word ſhe might have received Inſtruction, and now under this Calamity Directions and Comfort, having been lamentably ignorant of God and her Duty, till now awakened with the Sentence of Death; Yet profeſſed a deep ſenſe of her bloody, unnatural Crime. And Mr. Ordinary deſiring her that ſhe would let him hear what ſhe prayed to God for, ſince ſome Convictions were wrought in her; ſhe did pray in his hearing (apart from the reſt) very well, and fervently, in expreſſions ſuitable to her Crime and Condition, with much Self-abhorrency and brokenneſs of heart, to the beſt of his apprehenſion.

At the place of Execution they freely declared their Crimes, begged Pardon of God, and deſired all that were preſent, or of their Acquaintance, or that ſhould hear of their ſhamefull End, thereby to take warning to avoid the like Crimes, and amend their Lives.

FINIS.

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